

- ⊞ The endangered birdwing pearly mussel is only found in great numbers in the Duck River. Due to its declining numbers and increasing threats, this small mussel species was listed as endangered by the USFWS in 1976, and was included on a 1980 list of the "ten most endangered" species. (*Source: Tennessee Conservationist Magazine*)
- ⊞ University of Tennessee researchers found that that a species of owl had been using the Cheek Bend Cave for up to 16,000 years. By tracking evidence of changes in the owl's diets over time, the researchers found that the climate of Middle Tennessee 12,000 and 16,000 years ago was similar to modern-day Minnesota, and that the Columbia area was an open, grassy plain, much different than what had been previously believed. Today, the Duck River flows through forests, cedar glades and agricultural lands. (*Source: TDEC Division of Archaeology Archives*)
- ⊞ Tennessee's State Scenic Rivers Act was rejuvenated in 2001 by Gov. Sundquist through a new voluntary program for landowners along the Duck River to protect and conserve the pastoral and agricultural land through which the river flows. At approximately 270 miles in length, the Duck is the longest river contained entirely within Tennessee's borders. (*Source: Tennessee Conservationist Magazine*)

A Community Resource

- ⊞ Governor Don Sundquist worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority to secure the return of the 12,800 acres originally slated for construction of Columbia Dam to the people of Tennessee. Under the agreement with TVA, the state will manage the land for preservation, recreation, community use and water supply.
- ⊞ Hunting opportunities are available at the Yanahli River Wildlife Management Area, and camping is available on the Duck River at nearby Henry Horton State Park, located upstream of the scenic river section in Marshall County. Fishing on the Duck is always popular, yielding catches of small-mouth bass, spotted bass, rock bass and catfish from both boat and bank along the river. (*Source: Columbia Daily Herald*)
- ⊞ The Duck River offers canoeists a relaxing and peaceful float. There are sand and gravel bars along the way that provide an opportunity to step out of the canoe and view the sycamores and willow trees that line the river's banks, and see the herons and wild turkeys that live nearby. The river in this area alternates between long stretches of deep-flat water pools with occasionally shallow shoals to hurry canoes along. (*Source: Bob Duncan, Maury County Historian*)